

**KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

December 12, 2016

The Kansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened via teleconference on December 12, 2016 to discuss completion of the voting rights study begun by the previous Advisory Committee, and to discuss other topics of civil rights concern in the state for future Committee study.

This meeting was recorded and open to the public from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST.

Committee members present:

- Dodd, Mark
- Edwards, Mildred (Chair)
- Gieber, Steven
- Holt, Ronald
- Lambert, Kristy
- Ng, Jennifer
- Nolan, Phyllis
- Perucca, Kirk (Vice Chair)
- Unoke, Ewa

Committee Members Absent:

- Brien, Russell
- Hodgesmith, Martha
- Vega, Gabriela

USCCR staff present:

- Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)
- Sanders, Corrine

Members of the public present: None identified

Meeting Notes/Decisions Made

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - a. There were no revisions or additions to the agenda
- II. Welcome and Roll Call
 - a. The Chair provided the welcome and took roll call of members present
- III. Approval of Minutes: November 1, 2016
 - a. Ron Holt moved to approve the minutes as drafted.
 - b. Ewa Unoke seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

- IV. Review of the Committee's Draft Report: Civil Rights and the Kansas Secure and Fair Elections Act
- a. Committee members discussed the draft report provided through section 3a (attached)
 - i. In the introduction of the report, 2nd paragraph on page 2: the second sentence was amended as follows: "Specifically, the Committee sought to examine whether the state's 2011 Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act disparately discourages or denies citizens of their right to vote on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, or other federally protected category in local and/or federal elections."
 - ii. Section B, page 6 of the report: In the first paragraph, the third sentence, the word "Today" was replaced with "As of the writing of this report..."
 - iii. Section B, page 6 of the report: In the first paragraph, the fourth sentence, the phrase "these measures" was replaced with "voter identification requirements..."
 - iv. Section B, page 6 of the report: In the first paragraph, the fifth sentence, the phrase, "such laws" was replaced with "voter identification laws..."
 - v. Other typographical or non-substantive editorial/grammatical revisions should be submitted to USCCR staff for correction.
 - b. Steve Gieber moved to accept the reviewed section of the report as amended. Phyllis Nolan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
 - c. Additional sections of the report will be provided for Committee discussion at the next Committee meeting. The Committee will have the opportunity to revisit the report in its entirety after a complete draft is available.
- V. Project concepts
- a. One project concept was submitted for discussion during the Committee's November 1, 2016 meeting: Funding Impacts on Educational Outcomes in Kansas (attached)
 - i. While a number of additional topics were discussed, Committee members have submitted no other project concepts.
 - ii. The Chair provided draft project concepts for a number of the topics that were proposed verbally during the Committee's November meeting (attached)
 - b. Mark Dodd proposed one additional project topic:
 - i. Water rights on tribal reservations
 - c. In order to provide Committee members the opportunity to review the newly drafted project concepts (*see item V.a.ii above*), as well as to provide additional opportunity for concept submissions, Mark Dodd moved to table the Committee's

vote on their next topic of study until their next meeting. Kristy Lambert seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

VI. Public Comment

- a. At the conclusion of the meeting, public lines were opened for discussion. No public comment was received.

VII. Future Plans and Actions

- a. USCCR staff will poll Committee members for availability for a January 2017 meeting.
- b. Project concepts must be submitted a minimum of **one week** prior to the next Committee meeting. USCCR staff will collect all project concepts to share with the Committee at that time. Concepts submitted less than one week in advance of the meeting will not be considered.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned: 11:56 a.m.